





# The Ploughman.

**Of The Program.**

**BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEB. 9, 1878.**

Senator Dawes has introduced in the Senate a bill to regulate the use of proxies at meetings of National Bank Stockholders.

The question of extending partial suffrage to women is being discussed before a special committee of the Legislature.

An income tax bill is threatened by the House of Representatives, but it is expected that the Senate will postpone it indefinitely.

The Latin School for Girls was opened on Monday with the presence of forty-one girls, each applying for admission. Their classification was begun on the following day.

Congress will have to be called in, and promptly, to protect our fishermen off the Newfoundland Banks. They are now molested in a manner that cannot be put up with for a day.

It has been suggested that silver coins cannot be protected from counterfeiting like gold coins, and that any attempt at an inflation is certain to arise when they begin to circulate freely together.

The initiatory step toward recognizing gold values as the standard was taken by the New York Board of Trade, at its meeting on Monday. That is the way to fitting proof inflation on the uncertain basis of silver values.

There is an increasing opposition to the appeal made to the State for aid in preserving the Old South. The suggestion is that those who are in the State should rather labor to interest all who compose the State as individuals.

It is a sickening reflection that a catastrophe like that of the *st.-amer* Metropolis can occur without exciting the ghoul-like passions which slumber in beings wearing human forms. Robbing the dead is something that is not spoken of with patience in a state of civilization so-called.

Austria's position to the Russian proposals of peace leaves all the rest. If there is any chance of peace, it is Austria's. Austria will be the most active in it. Russia evinces her dread of Austria by concentrating an hundred and twenty thousand troops in Roumania, and facing them west and north. The triple alliance is evidently weakening.

**NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.**

**ANNUAL MEETING.**

The annual meeting of the New England Agricultural Society was held at No. 40 Milk Street, Boston, on Tuesday last. We publish a full account of the proceedings of the meeting in our paper of this date. The meeting was largely attended, every one of the States of New England being represented excepting Vermont, the recent storm preventing an attendance of members from that State. The meeting was harmonious and enthusiastic. All present deeply regretted the absence of Dr. Loring, who is engaged in public service at the Nation's capital.

Several matters connected with the growth and future of the Society were ably discussed. Among the matters considered were the premiums awarded at the last Fair of the Society, the constitution of the Society, Worcester in Massachusetts, and the State Society of Connecticut, both made propositions for the Fair of 1878. The whole matter of locating the exhibition of 1878 was referred to the Trustees.

At the close of the meeting the members repaired to Young's Hotel, where some seventy members gathered around a well supplied table. Ex-Gov. Smyth, president, and several of the leading agriculturists and gentlemen were present. The enjoyment of the dinner will long leave pleasant recollections.

**THE LEGISLATURE.**

The bills in the Senate in relation to certain fire insurance companies and to change the time of holding the June term of the Superior Court, were passed by the Senate. The Middlesex county, have been engrossed. The report was accepted on the order relative to the protection of depositors in savings banks, which was against its expediency. The reports adverse to the expediency of legalizing the sale of real estate by auction and depositors were adopted by the House. The several committees of both branches have been engaged in work through the week, though the severe storm greatly obstructed it during the latter part of last week. The Senate has been preparing for the Legislature in its open session with all the despatch possible. A bill has been introduced into the Senate for the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases among animals, which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. A large number of petitions have been presented in the House. An order was passed to consider the expediency of authorizing mutual insurance companies, with guarantee capital, to be organized in the State, and to amend the plan. An order was likewise passed to consider and report on the expediency of the Commonwealth's resuming possession of State Lands in Boston Harbor which were purchased of the State by the Boston and New Bedford Fish Commission. A bill was introduced not having been complied with. A bill was reported respecting street standards in the cities. The appropriation bill providing for the State almshouses and other institutions was passed to a third reading. The House has been engaged in considering the act to authorize cities and towns to furnish pupils in the public schools with textbooks.

**CONGRESS.**

The debate on the silver question continued in the Senate up to the time of the adjournment to press, but it is expected that a vote will be had on it before the week expires. Senators Bayard and Eaton have each made powerful speeches against the bill. Senator Bayard presented petitions from New York State favoring the repeal of the Resumption Act, but he accompanied it with the assertion that it did not represent the feelings or opinions of the people of the State. Senator Bayard presented one hundred and twenty petitions from Massachusetts favoring the Resumption Act. The Senate Finance Committee will report favorably on the bill authorizing the issue of \$100,000,000 of national currency, and the bill authorizing the issue of registered bonds, of the denomination of \$50,000 each, to be sold to the Government after sixty years, and bearing interest at the rate of 3.65 per cent. Petitions have been presented in both Houses, asking aid for the starving millions in Northern China, and the House Judiciary Committee has given to the House the report of a amendment to the Constitution granting woman suffrage. A bill was passed in the House, authorizing special term of the United Court in Mississippi, for the purpose of bringing to justice the depredators of Government lands in that State. The House has passed a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to commission a party for an appropriation of \$25,000, to enable him to investigate the army worm in the South. The strength of the silver vote in the House is reported to be waning. A new bill has been introduced in the House, having several liberal provisions.

The papers of that State say that Maine has no desire to quarrel with Massachusetts, but there is no need of it.

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